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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CHARLTON KINGS

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1953

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CHARLTON KINGS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1953

To the Chairman & Members of the Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the Urban District.

The Registrar General's estimate of the population, 5,894 shows a slight increase of 80 people on the previous year.

The number of births fell from 83 in 1952 to 77 in the year under review and in consequence the Birth Rate from 14.4 to 13.1 per 1,000 of the population. Actually where there is a high proportion of elderly people in a District the Registrar General assesses an Area Comparability Factor by which the crude rate may be adjusted. Even so the Corrected Birth Rate for the District 14.1 although more favourable is still below the rate for England and Wales as a whole 15.5.

There were 72 deaths, seven fewer than in 1952. The death rate 12.2 is a little higher than the national rate 11.4 but here the corrected death rate 10.3 is favourable to the District.

Only one infant died under one year of age making the infantile mortality at the rate of 13 deaths per 1,000 live births as compared with 26.8 for England and Wales as a whole.

The numbers involved are extremely small so an average should be struck over several years, however, it is extremely gratifying to record this satisfactory position.

The District was again free from cases of serious infectious disease and the incidence of measles and whooping cough was light.

I am glad to take this opportunity of thanking the members of the Council for their kind consideration

and my collegues for their loyal co-operation during the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

STEPHEN KNIGHT

Medical Officer of Health.

July, 1954.

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CHARLTON KINGS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Urban District of Charlton Kings for the year I953.

STATISTICS & SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	3,399
Registrar-General's estimate of mid-year population (including members of the Armed Forces)	5,894
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of I953)	I,928
Rateable Value (at 3I.I2.I953)	£44,883
Sum represented by a penny rate	£I80,774

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

LIVE BIRTHS

	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	74	32	42
Illegitimate	3	-	3
Total	77	32	45

Birth Rate per I,000 of the population	I3.I
Area Comparability Factor (Births)	I.07
Corrected Birth Rate (I3.I x I.07)	I4.0

STILL BIRTHS

Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-
Still Birth Rate per I,000 of the population	-	-	-
Still Birth Rate per I,000 total (live and still) births	72	37	35

DEATHS

Death Rate per I,000 of the population	I2.2
Area Comparability Factory (Deaths)	.76
Corrected Death Rate (I2.2 x 0.76)	I0.3

NO.30. DEATHS FROM PREGNANCY, CHILDBIRTH, ABORTION

Deaths	Deaths per I,000 total (live and still) births
Nil	Nil

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE
(Infantile Mortality)

	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	I	-	I
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total	I	-	I

Allinfants per I,000 Live Births I3

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 4 WEEKS OF AGE
(Neonatal Mortality)

Legitimate	I	-	I
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total	I	-	I

Neonatal Mortality Rate per I,000 live births I3

CAUSES OF DEATH

The causes of death in the following table are classified under the Abbreviated List of International Statistical Classification:

	Male	Female
I. Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	-
2. Tuberculosis, other	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease	I	-
4. Diphtheria	-	-
5. Whooping cough	-	-
6. Meningococcal infectious	-	-
7. Acute poliomyelitis	-	-
8. Measles	-	-
9. Other infective & parasitic diseases	-	-
I0. Malignant neoplasms, stomach	I	I
II. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	3	-
I2. Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	3
I3. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	-
I4. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	5	3
I5. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	-
I6. Diabetes	-	-
I7. Vascular lesions of nervous system	3	6
I8. Coronary disease, angina	6	6
I9. Hypertension with heart disease	-	-
20. Other heart disease	4	7
2I. Other circulatory disease	-	I
22. Influenza	2	I
23. Pneumonia	I	-
24. Bronchitis	-	I
25. Other diseases of the respiratory system	I	-

	Male	Female
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	-
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	-
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	-	-
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	2	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-
3I. Congenital malformations	-	-
32. Other defined and ill-difined diseases	6	3
33. Motor vehicle accidents	I	-
34. Allother accidents	I	2
35. Suicide	-	I
36. Homicide and operations of war	-	-
All causes	37	35

BIRTH? DEATH AND INFANTILE MORTALITY RATES IN THE DISTRICT FOR THE LAST FIVE YEARS

	I949	I950	I95I	I952	I953
Birth Rate (per I,000 population)	I3.7	I3.7	I0.9	I4.4	I3.I
Death Rate (Per I,000 population)	I3.0	I5.6	I6.9	I3.6	I2.2
Infantile Mortality Rate (per I,000 Live Births) (Deaths of infants under I year)	62.0	24.I	63.0	35.0	I3.0
Neonatal Mortality Rate (per I,000 Live Births) (Deaths of infants under I month)		I2.0	47.0	35.0	I3.0

FOR COMPARISON, THE BIRTH, DEATH AND INFANTILE MORTALITY RATES FOR ENGLAND AND WALES, ETC. ARE GIVEN BELOW

	England & Wales	I60 C.Bs. & Great Towns	County of Glos	Charlton Kings U.D.
Live Births	I5.5	I7.0	I5.74	I3.[illegible]
Still Births (per I,000 population)	(0.35 (22.4(a)	0.43 24.8(a)	0.33	-- --
Death Rate (per I,000 population)	II.4	I2.2	II.I9	I2.2
Infantile Mortality Rate (Deaths of Infants under I Yr.) (Per I,000 Live Births)	26.8	30.8	23.I0	I3.0
Neonatal Mortality Rate (Deaths of Infants under I Mth) (Per I,000 Live Births)			I3.7I	I3.0

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

I. INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING 1953 (Excluding Tuberculosis)

	Under 1 Yr.		1 - 5		5 - 15		15-25		25 and upwards		Total	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	2	1
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	2	-	2	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	4	3
Measles	-	-	2	5	12	6	1	1	-	1	15	13
Pneumonia	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	1	-	1	2	2
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Meningococcal infection	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis												
Paralytic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-paralytic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

2. TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases

Ages	Children 0 - 4	Children 5 - 14	All Persons
Pulmonary	1	-	6
Non-pulmonary			

Deaths

Pulmonary	-	-	-
Non-pulmonary	-	-	-

Tuberculosis Register

The number of cases on the register, 31st December, 1953 was as follows:

Pulmonary Male	Pulmonary Female	Pulmonary Total	Non-pulmonary Male	Non-pulmonary Female	Non-pulmonary Total	All forms Total
18	15	33	4	1	5	38

2a. Tuberculosis

Six new cases of tuberculosis came to notice but no deaths took place from this cause. This picture is typical of the present position with regard to tuberculosis, modern treatment has had a most benificial effect on the death rate but the incidence of the disease remains unchanged.

Preventive measures are essential to control the disease, contacts from cases are followed up and the County Council help whenever necessary in rehousing afflicted families so that infectious patients can have bedrooms to themselves.

A Mass Radiography Unit makes regular visits to the Borough of Cheltenham and residents of the Urban District can avail themselves of this service.

2b. Vaccination against Tuberculosis

In many countries vaccination against tuberculosis has been carried on for a number of years. The results have been most beneficial. There is much evidence to show that people can be protected against this infection when they are most likely to contract the disease.

B.C.G. vaccination against tuberculosis is already offered for infants and young children in close contact with an adult suffering from active pulmonary tuberculosis. The County Council have decided to extend the scheme to school children who are thirteen years of age. Children of this age are peculiarly susceptible to tuberculosis, they are undergoing development as adolescents and will soon be at work and subject to more strain and greater risk of infection.

3. Food Poisoning

(a)	Total number of outbreaks	Nil
(b)	Number of cases	Nil
(c)	Number of deaths	Nil
(d)	Organisms or other agents responsible, with number of outbreaks attributable to each	Nil
(c)	Foods involved, with number of outbreaks associated with each food	Nil

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1948 - CLEAN FOOD

Again there were no cases of food poisoning. It is true the population is small but such results pay tribute to the cleanliness in the food trades. Food shops are inspected regularly, and ready co-operation is generally forthcoming.

The people themselves could exercise the most effective measure in preventing food poisoning by insisting on clean methods in the handling and preparing food.

VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX

The slight increase in [illegible] continued,

32 persons being vaccinated as compared with 27 in the previous year. The acceptance rate for infants under one year of age also increased slightly from 25% to 30%.

Pre-war this rate was 40% ant it is climbing back all too slowly. Elsewhere some local authorities have achieved an acceptance rate of over 50%.

When outbreaks of smallpox occur in this country it is the vaccinated people who are the barriers to the spread of infection.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA

77 children were born and 60 children immunised against diphtheria during the year. Our records show that 67% of children under fifteen years of age in the District have been immunised.

Response to the campaign for immunisation against diphtheria is good although too many parents tend to put off immunisation unnecessarily.

A lot of people are carriers and only by maintaining artificial immunity at a high level can we avoid outbreaks of this serious disease.

Table overleaf sets out the position regard to the Immunisation against Diphtheria.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION
(In relation to Child Population)

Number of children who had completed a full course of immunisation at any time up to 3Ist December, I953.

Age at 3I.I2.I953 i.e. born in year:	Under I Yr. I953	I. I952	2. I95I	3. I950	4. I949	5 - 9 I944 - I948	I0 - I4 I939 - I943	Total
Number Immunised	3	43	49	58	72	32I	283	829
Total umber immunised			225				604	
Estimated mid-year population, I953			4I2				825	I,237

Number of children immunised in:	I953	I952	I95I	I950	I949	I948	I947	I946
Primary	60	58	73	50	56	98	80	73
Maintenance	53	74	42	69	85	43	9	47

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

Section 47 : Removal to suitable Premises of Persons in Need of Care and Attention.

No application was made to the Court under this Section for the removal of aged or infirm people living in insanitary circumstances and unable to devote to themselves, and not receiving from other people, proper c re and attention.

Visits have been made to a number of cases of this type but the Home Help Service was able to provide for the need of some of these lonely old people and enable them to carry on in their own homes.

The activity of the Old People's Club is particularly valuable in preventing bad conditions arising. Absentees from the meetings are visited and help, if required, is given at an early stage when it is most useful.

The Old People's Welfare Committee is maintaining a register of old people living alone in the area.

They are visited from time to time and even though they are not members of the Club their needs ascertained, and help provided if necessary

GENERAL PROVISIONS FOR HEALTH SERVICES

Ambulance Service

The Ambulance Service is maintained by the County Council and is obtained from Cheltenham Control Station (telephone number Cheltenham 3II2) and in emergency dialing "999" to the local Exchange and asking for "Ambulance Service".

The Ambulance Service is supplemented by a hospital car service which is available for taking patients to and from appointments in connection with the National Health Service providing the use of public transport is not possible. Requests for this Service should be made to the Control Station at Cheltenham and at least 48 hours notice must be given.

Nursing in the Home

The area is covered by the District Nursing Association under the control of the Health Committee of the County Council. Information is available from the Divisional

Health Office. North East Area, Council Offices, Copt Elm Road, Charlton Kings, (telephone number Cheltenham 55746).
District Nurse. Nurse Clifford, "Bernarlee" Little Herberts Road, Chalrton Kings, (telephone number Cheltenham 52523).

Child Welfare Centres

Meetings of the Charlton Kings Child Welfare Centre are held in the Holy Apostles Church Hall, London Road, every Tuesday at 2.30 p.m.

Home Help Service

This Service is organised by the County Council and a charge is made according to a scale of assessment.

The Home Help takes over the running of the home where the housewife is temporarily incapacitated through illness.

As noted elsewhere, the Service is very useful to old people who can no longer manage because of infirmity.

Appeals for assistance from the Home Help Service should be made to the Divisional Health Office, North East Area, Council Offices, Charlton Kings (telephone number Cheltenham 55746)

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY

The Urban District Council is within the statutory water supply area of the Cheltenham Corporation Water Undertaking. The supply was satisfactory throughout the year both in respect of quality and quantity.

During the year fifty-nine houses were connected to the public water mains comprising 55 houses and 4 existing houses.

The following table gives the position with regard to the public supply. Those houses which are not supplied from the public mains are in the high parts of the District where private piped supplies from near by springs are available.

Total			(a) Direct into house	(b) By Standpipe
I928	No. of houses	supplied by	I7I5	4
5894	No. of population	public mains	5249	I2

HOUSING ACT, I949 SECTION 20

Many of the houses in the District although substantially sound structurally lack modern amenities in the way of bathrooms and hot water system.

The repair and reconditioning of existing houses is a very important part of the housing problem. The cost of reconditioning is far less than building new houses and prevents the decay of the house into a slum.

Section 20 of the Health Act I949 provides for generous grants to be made where reconditioning of houses is carried out, both to owners of houses let at a rent and to owner occupiers. Local Authorities may make grants to private owners for the provision of dwellings, by conversion of houses or other buildings and for the improvement of existing houses. The house must have an estimated life of 30 years, and the standard of the accommodation provided must approximate to that of a new council house after the improvements have been carried out.

Grants may be made of up to £400 where the improvement work cost between £400 and £800. Where a dwelling has not been let at a rent during the past five years the Council fix a rent; where it has, the rent must be the past rent plus 6% of that part of the cost of the improvement work, borne by the owner.

The Ministry of Housing and Local Goverment's Circular 36/54 authorises Local Authorities to deal with applications and to decide the amount of grant without reference to the Ministry. This Circular also simplified and revised the requirements specified for a dwelling in respect of which an improvement grant is to be made.

At the time this Circular was issued the Minister gave much publicity to the provisions of the Act and there has been an increase in the number of enquiries regarding improvement grants, although no applications were received.

A grant to cover half the cost of the work should induce many owner occupiers to provide their houses with all the modern amenities which are regarded by most people as necessities. If this is done the general standard of housing in the District will be raised.

REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR

W.L. BOOY

Housing

Dwellinghouses inspected under the Public Health and Housing Acts	29
Total number of housing visits	6I
Number of houses found in all respect unfit for human habitation	2
Number of houses found not in all respects fit for human habitation	I8
Number of demolition orders made	I
Number of houses demolished	2
Number of notices served under Public Health Act, I936	I8
Number of notices complied with	I5
Inspection of accommodation occupied by housing applicants	53
Inspections re overcrowding	3

Rehousing

The Council built I6 houses during the year. The housing list was reviewed in May. It was found that a large number of applicants had been able to find other suitable accommodation, and that of those remaining on the list childless or couples with one child predominated. The needs of the larger families had been largely satisfied, but is was noted that the number of aged applicants had also increased.

Food Premises and Food Hygiene

Regular visits were made to food shops and similar premises to ensure compliance with the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act I938. The food premises in the area are restricted mainly to small butchering and grocery shops.

The number of premises registered under Section I4 are:-

Registered for sale of ice-cream ...	I4
Registered for manufacture of sausages and preserved food	2

All ice-cream sold in the district is prepacked. No ice - cream is made in the district.

Summary of Visits and Inspections

Visits to bakehouses	5
Visits to other food premises ...	47
Visits re meat and food inspection ...	23
Visits re sale of ice-cream	I0

Food Condemned

Notifications are received from food retailers when the fitness for human consumption of any particular food is doubted.

The following is a list of the food condemned during the period:-

		cwt	qr	lb
Carcass meat	...	I	3	7
Tinned meat	...		I	0
Ham	...		0	24
Tinned fish	...		0	I
Poultry	...		2	I8
		2	3	22

These figures are a decrease on the previous years, largely due to the gradual resumption of the pre-war practice of returning defective tinned goods via trade channels.

Milk Supplies

Milk is retailed, for the most part by retailers operating from premises in adjoining districts.

No. of Milk Distributors registered	...	...	8
No. of premises registered as dairies	...	...	2

The year saw a further decline in the number of producer retailers.

The following licences were issued by the Council under Milk and Dairies (Special Designations) Regulation.

Dealers in Tubeculin Tested Milk	...	2
Supplementary licences (Tuberculin Tested and Pasteurised Milk)		II

General Sanitation

Verminous premises - One case of bug infestation was discovered. A liberal treatment with D.D.T. insecticide proved satisfactory.

Drainage

492 visits were made to supervise drainage and other works in progress.

Moveable Dwellings

The demand for sites for moveable dwellings showed no marked increase. A proposal to lay out a private site for some 60 caravans was considered, but consent was ultimately refused by

the Town Planning Authorities. The number of licensed caravans remained more or less static at around 8, mostly on individual sites.

Water Supply

Four existing houses were connected to the mains and 3 water samples taken for analysis.

Factories Act 1937

The number of factories on the register is 19. With few exceptions all are small concerns employing only one or two workers. The majority were visited during the year.

Miscellaneous

No. of Visits re refuse collection	24
No. of visits re keeping of animals	19
Miscellaneous sanitary visits	52
Disinfectious after infectious disease ...	4

Rodent Control

The Council's scheme introduced in April, 1951 under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, continued to operate successfully.

The following is a summary of properties inspected etc.,

No. of properties inspected	
(a) Upon complaint	49
(b) By Survey	744
No of properties found to be infested	
(a) By rats	68
(b) By mice, seriously	60

Sewer treatments were carried out twice during the year. From previous experience those manholes most likely to be infested were baited on each occasion. On the March treatment 31 manholes were baited of which 16 were found to be infested. In September 40 were baited of which only 11 were rat-infested.

The records of sewer infestation are a useful guide to the general level of infestation in an area. As far as this area is concerned the figures have become progressively lower, from the first baiting in 1951 when almost three quarters of all the manholes in the area were found to be infested.

Mr. L.A. Dembenski terminated his employment as Pests Officer in November, and was replaced by Mr. A. Febery, who had been in the Council's employ as a building operative for some time.

The amount of contracts increased to £110 during the year. Almost all the hotels and institutions in the area, together with a number of shops and farms are subject to regular treatment by contract.